

### REMARKS

Claims 1 to 8, 10 to 23, and 25 to 31 are pending in this application.<sup>1</sup> Of these, claims 1 and 16 are independent. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 to 11, 13 to 15, 17, 19, 21 to 24, 26, and 29 to 31 contain allowable subject matter. The remaining claims were rejected. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 9 into independent claim 1, and has incorporated the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 24 into independent claim 16. Applicant has also made some clarifying amendments, which are not believed to affect patentability.

As shown above, Applicant has also replaced the abstract. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection thereto is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney can be reached at the address shown below. All telephone calls should be directed to the undersigned at 617-521-7896.

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<sup>1</sup> The Examiner is urged to independently confirm this recitation of the pending claims.


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Page : 11 of 11

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Please apply any fees or credits due in this case, which are not already covered by check,  
to Deposit Account 06-1050 referencing Attorney Docket No. 12758-039001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 15, 2006 (Monday)

  
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